

Montana/Wyoming Tribal Dental Support Center FY 2008 Summary

The MT/WY Tribal Dental Support Center (DSC) works in collaboration with and serves as an extension of the Billings Area Dental Program. The DSC focuses on three primary objectives:

- **Comprehensive program reviews** – Biennial program reviews serve to enhance clinical efficiency and effectiveness; reviews follow protocol outlined in the Oral Health Program Guide. The DSC director, Area Dental Officer, and consultants conduct reviews.
- **Community-based/clinical-based preventive programs** - Clinical and community preventive programs are established/enhanced that utilize evidence-based prevention and that focus on meeting or exceeding GPRA objectives. Early/Head Start programs and school-based programs are a primary means of accessing infants, children, and youths.
- **Training/Continuing Dental Education** – The DSC provides centralized and local on-site training. Training and CDE provided include the Billings Area Dental Program Managers, Area Prevention Coordinators, Billings Area Dental Assistants Training, Infection Control, Radiography Certification, Ultrasonic Utilization, and Expanded Functions.

Successes:

- The Billings Area dental programs have strong preventive programs, often meeting or exceeding GPRA Objectives,
- The Billings Area has an average of 33% access to care, well above the IHS average of 24%,
- DSC provides an average of 600 training hours and 250 CDE hours per fiscal year.

Challenges:

- Dentist and Dental Hygienist vacancies – some positions froze,
- Three prevention “champions” relocated or retired,
- Successful sealant programs have out-sealed their ability to meet GPRA objectives.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me.

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